TO THE

Hartley Wintney Rural District Council.

ANNUAL REPORT

Of the Medical Officer of Health, for the Year ending December 31st, 1908.

Estimated Population 19,607.

26 APR. 1909
16264

HARTLEY WINTNEY,
February 3rd, 1909.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report on the health of the district, for the year ending December 31st, 1908, and the conditions affecting, or likely to affect, the public health as well as other matters, including vital statistics. The death rate 10.31, is the lowest recorded during the last ten years. The number of infectious cases is again very small, being only 41 during the year.

Five cases were removed to the Farnham Isolation Hospital. In November 3 cases of Diphtheria occurred at Eversley, with one death. Two of these patients had not attended the County Schools. The Managers, acting on their own authority, and without the sanction of the District Council, or any recommendation to that effect, either from the Medical Officer of Health for the District or the School Medical Officer for the County, closed the same. On being referred to, I decided that the schools might be re-opened, and no further case of Diphtheria had occurred up to the end of the year.

A solitary case of Scarlet Fever occurred at Long Sutton early in November. Here again the schools were closed without the consent of the proper authority. I decided they should be re-opened at once. It cannot be too well or too widely known that the power of school closure on account of infectious disease does not rest with the Managers.

On October 24th a case of Scarlet Fever was notified from the parish of Crondall. Since then this complaint has been gradually increasing. In this village many of the cottages are old, and of a type which renders thorough disinfection almost impossible.

A case of undoubted Typhoid was notified from Winchfield, presumably caused by eating one oyster. Support is lent to this view, by the fact that the daughter of the man who supplied the oysters, and who ate some of the same, has been and is still very ill, and although not certified as Typhoid, there can be little doubt such has been the nature of the complaint.

Special Reports :—

Early in January, in consequence of the unsatisfactory nature of the water supply at Heath Lane, Crondall, I was requested by the L.G.B. to make a special report. This I did. Some of the existing wells are not fit for domestic supply. No improvement has been made in this water supply.

In April I was requested by the L.G.B. to make a special report on the nature and efficiency of scavenging in vogue at Odiham, North Warnboro, and Hartley Row.

HARTLEY WINTNEY.—In May I inspected the sanitary arrangements in connexion with ten cottages in Eighteenpenny Row, and three privies in connection with cottages adjunct. All were in a disgustingly filthy condition. The fæcal matter, from time to time, being placed in heaps on the common and covered over. I reported they were a nuisance, and that all should be cleansed, and converted into w.c's. In this case action has been taken. A good number of premises are not yet connected with the sewage system. This should be enforced. A large number of closets are flushed by hand; this is most unsatisfactory.

I further drew the attention of your Council to a serious nuisance and danger to the public health existing at Dipley, which was attended to.

SEWAGE WORKS.—Septic Tanks. These have both been pumped out clean and thoroughly washed; it was found necessary to do this owing to the accumulation of insoluble matter. This is the first time since the installation was erected, that such a measure has been found necessary.

Land Filtration.—There are about 3½ acres for this purpose; the whole has now been drained to remove all spring water; about two acres have been broken up, and cultivated, and 1½ acres await that operation.

Storm Water.—The area for this has been doubled, so as to provide against any possibility of polluting neighbouring streams.

Filter Beds.—The materials in these have all been renewed; it was found impossible to adequately deal with the quantity of sewage passing without doing so.

During the late summer and autumn, large quantities of debris and foreign matter found their way into the water supplied to this village for drinking purposes; on my reporting the matter to your Council, it was determined to erect another settling tank, subject to land being obtainable for that purpose.

ELVETHAM.—In October I reported to your Council on the want of proper drainage at Hartford Bridge, a hamlet in this parish, and pollution of the river Hart, a tributary of the Thames. My report was due to a case of Typhoid being notified, as well as from complaints made to me as to the very unpleasant smell that frequently arises from a meadow adjoining the London road, and a small water course called the "cut," the latter passing into the Hart. From one subirrigation area a sample of sewage was caught as it fell into the cut, and was unfavourable reported on, after exhaustive examination, by the County Analyst.

ODIHAM.—The re-sewering of this small town, and adjoining district of North Warnborough, is receiving attention. Four Engineers have submitted schemes, which are now being considered by the Council.

A comprehensive scavenging scheme has not been attempted, the collection of the whole of house refuse and excremental matter is needed, as also the regular cleansing of cesspools.

Four cottages have been closed as unfit for human habitation.

The Frimley and Farnboro Water Company commenced to sink a deep well at Deptford, near to the White Water, in this parish, but an injunction was obtained against them. This Company are now taking further steps to obtain powers to get water from this source. The procuring of water from a deep source, may not affect the superficial supply. On the other hand it is not unlikely that it will do so, in which case what will be the condition of landlords, farmers, and others, in this large area, it is a most serious matter, and it is to be hoped the experiment will not be permitted. Even now, in the village of Greywell, at several cottages the water supply has been deficient.

ROTHERWICK.—As yet no satisfactory means have been found to supply this parish with wholesome water, and I fear no solution of the difficulty is likely to be forthcoming until the question of the Water Company acquiring further powers has been settled by parliament.

House Accommodation throughout the district is yearly increasing, and improving. Many of the houses occupied by the working classes are conspicuous by their newness and appearance of increased comfort.

Building byelaws now under consideration will probably be brought into force during the coming year.

THE RIVER BLACKWATER.—Twice in June, in conjunction with the Sanitary Officer, I inspected this river. Near Blackwater Village the condition was highly unsatisfactory; it was polluted by Sewage entering from the Surrey side, such opinion being confirmed by the County Analyst, who examined samples sent for analysis. Since then I have examined the same portion on several occasions, and I am glad to say, in consequence of representations made by your Council to the Council polluting steps have been taken to abate the nuisance. Periodical and regular inspection is still necessary.

GIPSY VANS.—In consequence of complaints made to me as to the insanitary conditions arising from gipsy vans on Hunt's Common, Hartley Wintney, I advised the Council to enforce the byelaws framed with a view of dealing with such cases.

An excellent Ambulance has been purchased for the removal of cases of infectious disease to the Farnham Isolation Hospital. Articles of clothing, bedding, &c., are sent either to Farnham or Basingstoke for disinfection. I consider it would be a better, and in the end a cheaper plan, for the Council to erect a disinfecting chamber, and do their own disinfection.

Dairies and Cowsheds have received special attention; each year the improvement becomes more noticeable.

Butcheries, Bakeries and Workshops have all been inspected.

The district has been regularly and systematically inspected, and is in a very healthy condition, except the parish of Crondall, wherein exists Scarlet Fever.

I have drawn up amended literature for distribution, with a view to guide parents and nurses in preventing the spread of infectious diseases, also calling attention to the law relating to infectious disease, and the penalties if the law is infringed.

I consider the past year has been one in which I have to record an advance and activity in Sanitary Science and work, which reflects great credit on the Council.

Appended is the Report of the Sanitary Inspector.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

H. MATURIN, *M.O.H.*

Details Sanitary Work carried out in the District—

Complaints received ..	(none publicly)
Houses and premises inspected ..	1888
Houses and premises re-visited ..	2364
Notices issued	56

Matters dealt with—

DRAINS—

Constructed	59
Repaired	19
Ventilated	25
Unstopped or cleansed	73
Disconnecting traps fixed ..	11
Old drains abolished	40
Gulley traps fixed..	42
Defective traps abolished ..	24
Manholes built	40
Manholes repaired	2
Manhole covers fixed or repaired	42
Fresh air inlets fixed	14
Old drains repaired	21

WATER CLOSETS—

Constructed	36
Abolished	6
Ventilated	15
Traps ventilated	12
Flushing apparatus fixed ..	29
Defective apparatus removed ..	2
Water supply provided	23
W.C. apparatus fixed	6

WASTE PIPES—

Waste pipes fixed..	5
,, ,, disconnected ..	2
,, ,, removed	11
,, ,, trapped	2
,, ,, abolished	4

SINKS—

Defective scullery sinks removed	2
New sinks fixed	4
Pails fitted under sink wastes ..	22

SOIL PIPES—

Fixed	6
Ventilated	10
Repaired	2
Abolished, being inside house wall	2

WATER SUPPLY—

Provided	3
Reinstated	10
Certificates issued for new houses	13
Cistern covers repaired	2
Cisterns abolished	4

WELLS—

Covers repaired	13
Wells cleaned out..	14
New Wells dug	1
Old Wells closed	3

Stream and water course pollution prevented	13
Samples of water sent to County Analyst	14

FACTORIES, WORK SHOPS & WORK PLACES—

Number on register	98
Visits made	118
Sanitary defects remedied ..	6

DAIRIES, COW SHEDS & MILK SHOPS—

Number on register	99
Number registered during year	8
,, of notices issued ..	16
,, new cow sheds erected	3
,, Cow sheds improved ..	22
,, new dairies erected ..	2

INFECTIOUS DISEASE—

Infectious cases reported (School Teachers notified in each case)	41
Houses in which infectious disease occurred	23
Visits made to infectious cases..	183
Patients removed to hospital ..	4
Rooms disinfected	36
Articles disinfected	263
Value or cost to replace articles destroyed	£8/0/6

PRIVIES—

Privies repaired	3
Cesspits abolished	31
Pail closets erected	15
,, ,, abolished	15
Cesspits cleansed	67
Pail closets cleansed	21
Privies limewashed	11
,, erected	3
Earth closets erected	1

MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS—

Overcrowding abated ..	11
Houses closed, unfit for habitation	4
House roofs repaired	4
Light and ventilation of houses improved	2
Houses repaired	13
Offensive accumulations removed	85
Keeping of animals discontinued	6
Pigstyes cleansed	16
Premises cleansed and limewashed	21
New cesspools built	7
Old cesspools abolished	8
Cesspools cleaned out	103
Washhouses erected	2

STANLEY BUTLER,

Inspector of Nuisances.